

*A Brief History of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment*

*Black Lions*



*Vincit Amor Patriae*

This history is based on the book *A Century Of Valor* by Stephen Bowman

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For over a century, America has been involved in several conflicts all over the globe. During these times of crisis, the nation has often called upon the soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

Over the years, the Black Lions have served in nearly every major conflict that the United States has participated. Beginning with its baptism by fire in the Philippines, to the forging of the Black Lion legend at Cantigny, and gallant actions in Vietnam, Black Lions have fought with courage all over the globe.

The Black Lions have answered these calls to service, repeatedly demonstrating the ability to accomplish the tough missions.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry

### Distinctive Unit Insignia, Coat of Arms and Motto



**DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA**



**COAT OF ARMS**

**Distinctive Unit Insignia. Description:** A silver metal and enamel device 1 3/32 inches (2.78cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Argent, a lion rampant Sable.

**Symbolism:** When this regiment was organized in 1901, the color of Infantry facings was white, which has been taken for the color of the shield.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 27 Sep 1923.

#### Coat of Arms.

##### Blazon:

**Shield:** Argent, a lion rampant Sable.

**Crest:** On a wreath of the colors a kris and kampilan in saltire Argent hilted Sable, encircled by a fourragère in the colors of the French Croix-de-Guerre Proper.

**Motto:** VINCIT AMOR PATRIAE (Love of Country Conquers).

**Symbolism:** When this regiment was organized in 1901, the color of Infantry facings was white, which has been taken for the color of the shield. As soon as organized the regiment went to the Philippines, seeing active service against the Moros in Mindanao. The kris and kampilan, the Moro weapons, commemorate such service. In the World War the 28th Infantry was in the 1st Division, and was the attacking regiment at Cantigny, the first important engagement of our Army in that war. Cantigny is in the ancient province of Picardy, whose arms carried three black rampant lions. The regiment was cited twice in Army Orders by the French for distinguished services rendered at Cantigny and Soissons, and was awarded the fourragère, which is incorporated as a part of the crest. The motto is Vincit Amor Patriae (Love of Country Conquers).

**Background:** The coat of arms was approved on 11 Dec 1920.

## **The Black Lions are born**

In 1901, Congress authorized the creation of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment to aid in the fighting of the Philippine Insurrection that followed the Spanish-American War of 1898. The adversary during this conflict was the infamous Moro rebels, a group of Muslim insurgents with over 300 years of fighting experience. The Regiment arrived on Luzon Island on 11 December 1901.

During fighting on 13 November 1903, H Company was attacked. One of the four American men killed in the attack, Private Ferdinand Keithley, attempted to fight his way back to camp a half mile away. His body was found surrounded by the 22 dead Moro warriors he killed in his effort. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry named a local camp after him. He was the first enlisted man to have an Army post named in his honor.



Private Ferdinand Keithley

The next day, the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment engaged in the largest battle in the Philippines until WWII. The Battle of Suliman Mountain lasted eight hours, culminating when the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry took the Moros in a bayonet charge.

At the conclusion of hostilities, the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry received a campaign streamer for its exceptional performance in subduing the Moros. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry moved to Cuba in October 1906. The Regiment performed guard duties at Camp Matanzas until it returned to Ft. Snelling, Minnesota in January 1909. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry moved to Fort Sam Houston in March 1911 and began patrolling the Mexican border in an effort to impede the actions of Pancho Villa, the infamous Mexican revolutionary leader.



## **World War I**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Expeditionary Division, which later became the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division on 9 June 1917. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment became the first American combat unit to land in France when it arrived on 26 June 1917.

### **Cantigny**

On 28 May 1918, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1-28) participated in the Battle of Cantigny, the 1<sup>st</sup> US offensive operation in WWI. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry was to seize the village of Cantigny, held by the German 18<sup>th</sup> Army. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry attacked at 0645 after a one-hour artillery preparation. Although the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry took the village on the first day of the attack, it also had to withstand several enemy counterattacks over the next two days. It was in Cantigny that the Regiment earned its nickname, "The Lions of Cantigny." Every 28 May, an honor guard from the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division conducts a ceremony at Cantigny.



28th Infantry troops attack across open terrain toward the village of Cantigny, 28 May 1918.  
(U.S. Army)

## **Soissons**

During the Soissons offensive, in spite of heavy resistance, 1-28 attacked and seized Ploissy, the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment's 3<sup>rd</sup> objective. On 20 July, 1-28 under command of 2LT Sorenson attacked to seize the village of Berzy-le-Sec. 2LT Sorenson was hit by artillery and replaced by 2LT John R. Cleland. 2LT Cleland was wounded twice in the attack and received the Distinguished Service Cross. It was his first day of action with 1-28. The 190 men of 1-28 held the objective under continuous German artillery barrages. By the end of action, 1-28 rifle companies averaged 20-50 men and only five officers in the entire battalion.

## **Meuse-Argonne**

On 5 October 1918, 1-28 led an attack on Hill 240 during the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Sergeant Michael B. Ellis of C Company single-handedly attacked several machine gun nests. He killed two enemy soldiers and captured



seventeen others at one emplacement. He later advanced, again alone, and captured twenty-seven enemy soldiers and six machine guns that hindered the company's advance. Sergeant Ellis went on to attack and capture four additional machine guns and their crews. He was awarded the Medal of Honor.

As WWI ended, the 28 Infantry Regiment moved to Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky on 4 October 1919.

## **World War II**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was again called into action in WWII. The Regiment was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Division in 1940 and sailed for Europe on 5 December 1943. The Regiment remained in Northern Ireland until 1 July 1944 when it set sail for Normandy. The Regiment landed on Utah beach 4 July, D + 28. On 8 July, the Regiment attacked to the south of the town of La Haye-du-Puits. In spite of heavy losses from a lack of experience fighting in hedgerows, the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry achieved its objectives.

### **Ay River Line**

1-28, reinforced by armor, led the assault on the Ay River Line on 26 July 1944. The initial battalion objective was the village of Battieres. A Company drew the majority of enemy fire, allowing B and C Companies to flank the village. Over one hundred German soldiers died in the C Company charge on the village. C Company's 1SG Auchenbach assumed command of the company when all officers had become casualties. C Company, at a strength of 40 men, held off counterattacks of enemy infantry and tanks, taking heavy casualties in the process. The following day, 1-28 attacked and seized the high ground south of the town of Miliers. 1-28 received a Presidential Unit Citation for its actions in the attack across the Ay River from 26 – 27 July 1944.

## **Brest**

On 8 August 1944, 1-28 was attached to Combat Company A of the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, which had been ordered by General Patton to take the town of Brest. 1-28 was commanded by LTC Benjamin C. Chapla, who had been a platoon leader in 1-28 five years earlier. On 10 August 1944, 1-28 was ordered to seize the airport at Brest and find and contain enemy strongpoints. From 10 -18 August 1-28 fought heavily fortified German bunkers. 1-28 suffered 204 casualties. Brest finally fell on 18 September.

## **The Crozon Peninsula**

On 14 September, 8<sup>th</sup> Division was moved to the Crozon Peninsula to contain German forces located there. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was to attack along the northern ridge on the peninsula. 1-28 approached the town of St. Efflez under cover of fog. The Germans launched a counterattack against 1-28 under cover of darkness, but were repelled. 1-28 captured the regimental objective, the airfield, on 17 September. After securing the peninsula, the Regiment added the Northern France Campaign Streamer to the regimental colors.

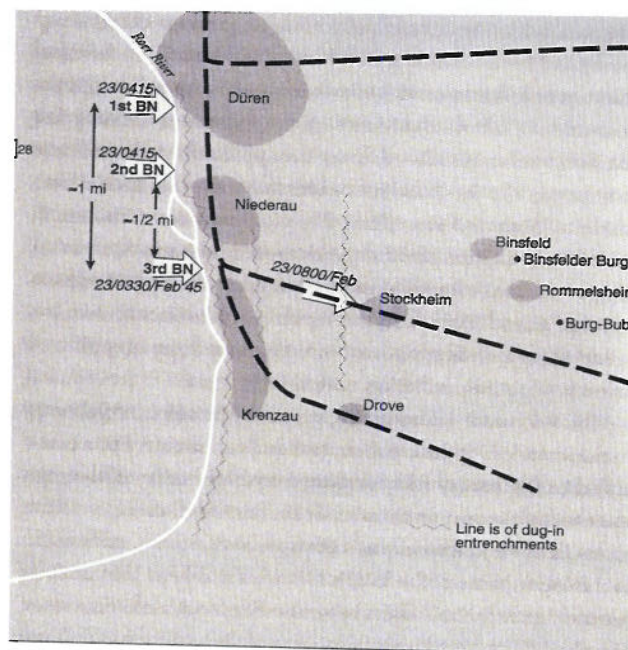
## **The Luxembourg/Hurtgen Forest**

On 18 November, the Regiment relieved the 109<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in the Hurtgen-Vossenack area. In ten days, 1-28 suffered through 3000 artillery and mortar rounds. 1-28 was ordered to attack and capture the high ground west of

Brandenburg on 30 November. During the attack, 3-28 advanced far ahead of 1-28 and found itself exposed. On 2 December, 1-28 attacked to reach 3-28. On 5 December, two companies from 1-28 with armor support attacked Bergstein, southeast of Brandenburg. 1-28 faced repeated German counterattacks and held the area between sister battalions 3-28 and 2-28. 1-28 suffered heavy losses while attacking on the north and east of 2-28 around Vossenack. 1-28 was relieved by 2-28 on 15 December.

### The Roer River

In February 1945, 1-28 found itself training to cross the Roer River, which was flooded by the German sabotage of a dam. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was to establish a bridgehead to allow the 1<sup>st</sup> ID to assault across the river.



Map 10-1. Roer River Crossing.



1-28 followed 3-28 across the river on 23 February. Six 1-28 boats overturned. Men paddled with rifles as paddles were lost. 1-28 entered the town of Niederau from the north, en route to regimental objective Stockheim. The battle was a fierce urban fight. Most of the town had been cleared by 26 February. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment received a Presidential Unit Citation for its actions in Stockheim.



After crossing the Roer, D Company, 28th Infantry moves through Binsfeld, a town north of Stockheim and east of Dueren, 26 February 1945. (U.S. Army-Jon Gawne Coll)

## **The Rhine**

On 1-2 March the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment made its way toward the Rhine River against continuous German resistance. 1-28 was strafed by enemy aircraft as they fought in the town of Habblerah. 1-28 assaulted the town after it was bombarded by artillery and air strikes, then repelled a counterattack. 1-28 moved to attack the Town of Frechen from the west, in conjunction with attacks from 2-



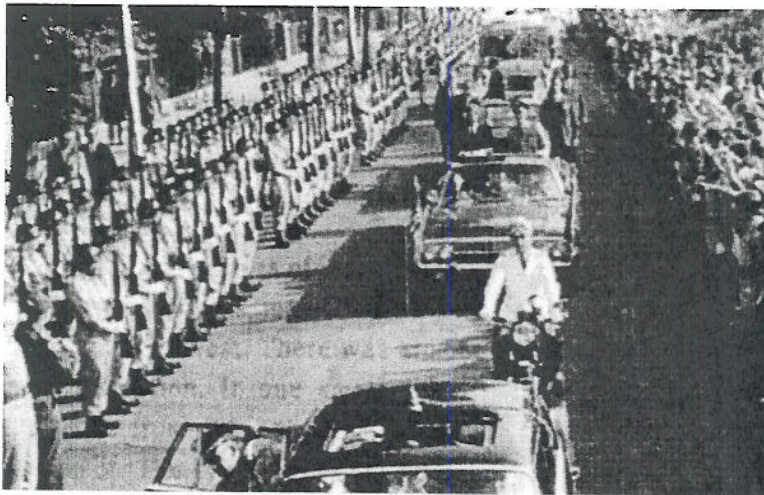
28 and 3-28. 1-28 cleared the next town, Surth, then the Regiment spent six days in reserve, refitting. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment received the mission to move to the Sieg River and prepare for offensive operations. On the way, the Regiment captured the towns of Wissen, Alsdorf, Scheuerfeld, Burche, and Betzdorf. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment attacked across the river on 1 April. 1-28 secured high ground against moderate resistance, then assisted 2-28 in removing German forces that infiltrated behind 2-28. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment continued its advance, meeting resistance from German Anti-Aircraft fire being used in a defensive flat-trajectory role. The Regiment moved another 10 miles and captured twenty two hundred prisoners. On 13 April, 1-28 attacked and seized the town of Radewormald. By the end of the day, the Regiment had taken two thousand German prisoners. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was ordered to occupy the Ruhr-Rhine area and provide military administration of the area. Ten days later, the Regiment received orders to follow Task Force Canham and eliminate bypassed enemy formations and collect POWs and eventually linked up with the Soviet Army.

On 3 May, the regimental surgeon, Captain Frederick Dry, discovered a concentration camp in the town of Wobbelin. Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945. The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was inactivated on 1 November 1945 at Ft. Leonard Wood.

## Interwar Years

The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was reactivated in August of 1950 to train recruits at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. In April 1956, the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was ordered to train 4,000 new recruits and deploy with them to Germany. The Regiment was split into battle groups located in Germany and the continental United States.

While in Germany on 26 June 1963, the Black Lions served as an honor guard for President John F. Kennedy's tour and speech in Berlin. All seven companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle group of 1-28 were present for President Kennedy's well-known "Ich bin ein Berliner!" speech.



The Black Lion honor guard welcomes President Kennedy

1-28 conducted counterinsurgency training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri in March 1964. In October 1964, 1-28 became a mechanized infantry battalion, then transitioned back to a light battalion in July 1965.

## Vietnam

In the summer of 1965, 1-28 rejoined 1<sup>st</sup> ID after training 4,000 ROTC cadets at Ft. Riley. 1-28 arrived in Vietnam as part of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> ID on 9 October 1965 and moved to Phouc Vinh, north of Saigon.



The 1-28 base camp at Phouc Vinh

1-28 participated in operations Crimp and Buckskin to clear part of the Tay Ninh province. During this operation, LTC Robert Haldane, the commander of 1-28, led an assault against an enemy machine gun, which had pinned down and wounded 1-28 soldiers. He received a Silver Star for his actions. 1-28 uncovered many tunnel complexes during these operations. On 10 January 1966, Platoon



Sergeant Stewart Green stepped on a nail and discovered a trap door to an underground complex. Green and several others volunteered to search the tunnels and became the first "tunnel rats" of the war.

## Division Unit Demolishes VC Complex

LAI-KHE (1st Inf Div IO) — The 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry twisted and hacked its way through nearly five miles of dense jungle to successfully complete its role in «Operation Bushwhacker» last week.

Thanks to the efforts of the members of the battalion performing reconnaissance and clearing, a large amount of Viet Cong supplies was uncovered and destroyed. A sizeable cache of shape charges, mortar rounds and small arms ammunition was found.

On the second of the four day operation, the battalion probed into the middle of a vacated Viet Cong compound. The training and billeting complex consisted of a dozen or more thatch roofed shelters. Connecting each of the shelters was a network of tunnels. Included among the items found were documents, training textbooks, letters and several posters urging VC recruits to «Kill the Americans.»



*SUSPECT — Sergeant Nguyen Minh, interpreter with 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry of the 1st Infantry Division frisks a Viet Cong suspect discovered during «Operation Bushwhacker» conducted in the Ben Cat vicinity. The suspect was later released. The infantry battalion found numerous VC structures, documents and ammunitions during the grueling four-day jungle trek earlier this month.*

Newspaper account of 1-28 tunnel clearing activity

In November of 1966, 1-28 participated in Operation Attleboro, reinforcing the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The largest action of the operation was the Battle of Ap Cha Do. On the night of 8 November, LTC Whitted ordered a recon by fire before starting movement. The VC responded by assaulting the 1-28 positions. B Company Specialist Fourth Class Kirk James, acting squad leader, killed a VC machine gun crew with his shotgun, distributed ammunition, and then attacked a second VC machine gun crew. James deployed smoke, aiding air strikes which



hampered the enemy assault. He would receive a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. Captain Euripides Rubio, the 1-28 communications officer, took command of B Company after Captain Richard Cato was wounded and evacuated. Captain Rubio watched as a smoke grenade used for marking targets for air strikes was thrown dangerously close to friendly forces. Captain Rubio ran through enemy fire, picked up the smoke grenade and carried it to the VC positions. Although hit by enemy fire three times, Captain Rubio managed to throw the smoke grenade into an enemy position. His actions saved the lives of many 1-28 soldiers. Captain Rubio died of his wounds and posthumously received the Medal of Honor. The operation ended on 28 November, with 1-28 receiving the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in the Battle of Ap Cha Do.

In January of 1967, 1-28 participated in the invasion of the Iron Triangle at the beginning of Operation Cedar Falls. On 11 January, 1-28 discovered the largest enemy hospital ever found during the war. On 13 January, the battalion suffered friendly artillery fire and lost thirteen KIA and fifty WIA. In February, 1-28 participated in Operation Tucson, destroying several enemy camps and supplies. 1-28 followed Operation Tucson with Operation Junction City, which involved twenty-two American battalions with ARVN assets. 1-28 air assaulted into close proximity to the enemy and remained in continuous contact for two weeks. The Black Lions lost five KIA and twenty-two WIA during the operation. 1-28 conducted road-clearing operations on Highway 13 near Phouc Vinh during Operation Billings. 1-28's next large-scale operation was Operation Shenandoah

II from 29 September to 19 November. 1-28 conducted search and destroy operations, making daily contact with VC elements and booby traps. The operation resulted in the capture of 84 tons of rice, the destruction of 17 platoon to battalion sized base camps and seventy VC killed. 1-28 lost two KIA and one WIA. 1-28 continued its search and destroy missions, capturing VC camps and supplies. On 6 November, A Company platoon leader 1LT Joe Kendall and his platoon came under heavy fire in dense jungle. Kendall crawled under fire to linkup with his cutoff lead element. Kendall was wounded while dragging a wounded soldier out of the fire of a VC machine gun. Lieutenant Kendall also pulled his wounded forward observer to safety and distributed ammunition to his machine guns before being ordered to break contact. 1LT Kendall received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. 1-28 returned to Phouc Vinh after the conclusion of the operation, then moved to reinforce a Special Forces camp near the Cambodian border. 1-28 lost ten KIA and ninety-nine WIA to a two-week bombardment by enemy mortars and rockets. 1-28 then returned to Quan Loi until the end of the year.

## **Tet**

On 1 February, following the start of the Tet Offensive, C Company, 1-28 made contact outside of the village of An My less than a mile from the north gate of the 1<sup>st</sup> ID base camp at Phu Loi. C Company, facing strong VC resistance, was reinforced by D Company. Alpha Company would join the battle at noon. Squad leader Staff Sergeant Bernard Ryan was wounded by an enemy grenade,

but continued to fight. He killed an enemy machine gun team, then led a squad to secure a supporting tank that had been hit by an RPG. Staff Sergeant Ryan commandeered the tank and drove it to safety. He would receive an "impact award" Silver Star at the end of the day. The following day he was mortally wounded by a sniper while attempting to destroy a VC bunker. 1-28 was ordered to break contact while artillery and air strikes pummeled An My all night. On 2 February, 1-28, supported by three cavalry platoons swept from south to north on line. 1-28 met light resistance on the left and right, while C Company, in the middle met heavy enemy fire. 1-28 fought house to house in the village, completing its search at 1900. The enemy suffered 372 dead and 12 captured, and lost large quantities of supplies. 1-28 lost eighteen KIA and forty-nine WIA. After participating in several more operations, 1-28 would finish the year at Fire Base Remagen.

While occupying Fire Support Base (FSB) Remagen, another Black Lion would earn the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. While on an ambush patrol 16 February 1969, 1LT Gary Miller of A Company, 1-28 and his platoon attacked an NVA element. After the initial attack, 1LT Miller swept the area with a recon patrol. The patrol was attacked and 1LT Miller was wounded by gunfire. During the firefight, a hand grenade landed within the perimeter of the patrol. 1LT Miller selflessly threw himself onto the grenade, preserving the lives of those around him. He posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

Between February 1969 and February 1970, 1-28 operated out of several different FSBs with the companies often operating independently of one another.



The Black Lions service in Vietnam ended in February 1970, and the battalion redeployed to Fort Riley, Kansas. While serving in Vietnam, 1-28 received several awards to include the Presidential Unit Citation for actions in Tay Ninh Province, 1968; and twice received the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, 1965-1968 and 1968-1970. Listed as Missing In Action at the close of the war was Black Lion SGT Earl Shark of A Co, 1-28.

### **Post-Vietnam**

After Vietnam, the Black Lions went through several changes and took on some additional duties that it had not previously experienced. In April 1970, the Black Lions became a mechanized infantry battalion and participated in several major exercises in preparation for conflict with Warsaw Pact nations. During this period, the Black Lions also became trainers and supported the ROTC Summer Camp. The Black Lions continued in the fashion until 28 February 1983, when 1-28 was inactivated. Black Lion veterans lobbied to get the regiment reactivated and on 22 January 1987, the Black Lions reemerged as 1-28 of Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The Black Lions were now responsible for training Army recruits in basic training.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment returned to active duty in January 2006 at Ft. Riley, Kansas, as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. The Black Lions continue to set the standard of professionalism and excellence in service in war and peace.

# 1st Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Honors

## Campaign Participation Credit

### Philippine Insurrection

Mindanao

### World War I

Montdidier-Noyon

Aisne-Marne

St. Mihiel

Meuse-Argonne

Lorraine 1917

Lorraine 1918

Picardy 1918

### World War II

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Central Europe



## Vietnam

### Defense

#### Counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase II

Counteroffensive, Phase III

Tet Counteroffensive

Counteroffensive, Phase IV

Counteroffensive, Phase V

Counteroffensive, Phase VI

Tet 69/ Counteroffensive

Summer-Fall 1969

Winter-Spring 1970

### Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered NORMANDY

Presidential Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered BERGSTEIN

Presidential Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered STOCKHEIM

Presidential Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered TAY NINH PROVINCE

French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War I, Streamer Embroidered  
PICARDY

French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War I, Streamer Embroidered AISNE-  
MARNE

French Croix de Guerre, World War I, Fourragere

Luxembourg Croix de Guerre, Streamer embroidered LUXEMBOURG

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
VIETNAM 1965-1968

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
VIETNAM 1969-1970

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer  
embroidered VIETNAM 1965-1970

## Medal of Honor Recipients

### Sergeant Michael B. Ellis



Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company C, 28th Infantry, 1st Division.

Place and date: Near Exermont, France, 5 October 1918.

Entered service at: East St. Louis, Illinois.

Born: 28 October 1894, St. Louis, Missouri.

#### Citation:

During the entire day's engagement, he operated far in advance of the first wave of his company, voluntarily undertaking the most dangerous missions and single-handedly attacking and reducing machinegun nests. Flanking one emplacement, he killed 2 of the enemy with rifle fire and captured 17 others. Later he single-handedly advanced under heavy fire and captured 27 prisoners, including 2 officers and 6 machineguns, which had been holding up the advance of the company. The captured officers indicated the locations of 4 other machineguns, and he in turn captured these, together with their crews, at all times showing marked heroism and fearlessness.

## First Lieutenant Gary L. Miller



Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division.

Place and Date: Binh Duong province, Republic of Vietnam, 16 February 1969.

Entered service at: Roanoke, Va. Born: 19 March 1947, Covington, Va.

### Citation:

For conspicuous intrepidity and gallantry in action at the risk of his life beyond the call of duty. First Lt. Miller, Infantry, Company A, was serving as a platoon leader at night when his company ambushed a hostile force infiltrating from Cambodian sanctuaries. After contact with the enemy was broken, 1st Lt. Miller led a reconnaissance patrol from their prepared positions through the early evening darkness and dense tropical growth to search the area for enemy casualties. As the group advanced, they were suddenly attacked. First Lt. Miller was seriously wounded. However, the group fought back with telling effect on the hostile force. An enemy grenade was thrown into the midst of the friendly patrol group and all took cover except 1st Lt. Miller. who in the dim light located

the grenade and threw himself on it, absorbing the force of the explosion with his body. His action saved nearby members of his patrol from almost certain serious injury. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by this officer were an inspiration to his comrades and are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army



## Captain Euripides Rubio



Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company,  
1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, RVN.

Place and date: Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam, 8 November 1966.

Entered service at: Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

Born: 1 March 1938, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

### Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Rubio, Infantry, was serving as communications officer, 1st Battalion, when a numerically superior enemy force launched a massive attack against the battalion defense position. Intense enemy machinegun fire raked the area while mortar rounds and rifle grenades exploded within the perimeter. Leaving the relative safety of his post, Capt. Rubio received 2 serious wounds as he braved the withering fire to go to the area of most intense action where he distributed ammunition, re-established positions and rendered aid to the wounded. Disregarding the painful wounds, he

unhesitatingly assumed command when a rifle company commander was medically evacuated. Capt. Rubio was wounded a third time as he selflessly exposed himself to the devastating enemy fire to move among his men to encourage them to fight with renewed effort. While aiding the evacuation of wounded personnel, he noted that a smoke grenade, which was intended to mark the Viet Cong position for air strikes, had fallen dangerously close to the friendly lines. Capt. Rubio ran to reposition the grenade but was immediately struck to his knees by enemy fire. Despite his several wounds, Capt. Rubio scooped up the grenade, ran through the deadly hail of fire to within 20 meters of the enemy position and hurled the already smoking grenade into the midst of the enemy before he fell for the final time. Using the repositioned grenade as a marker, friendly air strikes were directed to destroy the hostile positions. Capt. Rubio's singularly heroic act turned the tide of battle, and his extraordinary leadership and valor were a magnificent inspiration to his men. His remarkable bravery and selfless concern for his men are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on Capt. Rubio and the U.S. Army.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Dates In History

### JANUARY

- 10 January 1966                      1-28 Platoon Sergeant Stewart Green discovers underground complex and volunteered to search it, becoming the first "tunnel rat" of the Vietnam War.
- 12 January 1966                      1-28 participates in mine removal operations Crimp and Buckskin. LTC Robert Haldane, commander of 1-28 awarded a Silver Star for leading an assault against an enemy machine gun, which had pinned down wounded 1-28 soldiers. Vietnam

### FEBRUARY

- 1 February 1966                      1-28 makes contact with VC forces near the beginning of the Tet Offensive of Vietnam. Facing strong enemy resistance, SSG Bernard Ryan, continuing to fight after being wounded by an enemy grenade, destroys an enemy machine gun team. SSG Ryan then led a squad to secure a damaged tank, which he then drove to safety. He received a Silver Star impact award at the end of the day.
- 2 February 1901                      28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Constituted as A Company, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry

15 February 1966 1LT Gary Miller of A Company is wounded by gunfire when his platoon was attacked during a patrol. He threw himself onto an enemy hand grenade that landed within his platoon. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

23 February 1945 1-28 crosses the Roer river by boat and seized the town of Niederau in a vicious urban battle. WWII

27 February 1987 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry activated at Fort Jackson, South Carolina

## MARCH

1-2 March 1945 1-28 assaults the town of Habblerah, then repels German counterattack. WWII

## APRIL

13 April 1945 1-28 attacks and seizes the town of Radewormald. 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry captures 2,000 German soldiers. WWII



## MAY

28 May 1918                      The Black Lion legend is born in the Battle of Cantigny, the first American offensive operation in WWI.

## JUNE

26 June 1917                      28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment is deployed to France in WWI. It the first American combat unit to set foot on France.

26 June 1963                      1-28 Serves as honor guard for President Kennedy in Berlin

## JULY

4 July 1944                      1-28 lands on Utah beach in WWII

26 July 1944                      1-28 leads assault on Ay River Line in WWII. Receives Presidential Unit Citation for its actions 26-27 July 1944.

20 July 1918                      1-28 seizes the village of Berzy-le-Sec during the Soissons offensive in WWI. 2LT Cleland received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during the battle.

## AUGUST

## SEPTEMBER

17 September 1944      1-28 captured the regimental objective on the Crozon Peninsula and repelled a German counterattack during WWII

18 September 1944      1-28 seized the town of Brest in spite of many heavily fortified German bunkers during WWII.

## OCTOBER

5 October 1918      1-28 leads attack on Hill 240 during the Meuse-Argonne offensive of WWI. Sergeant Michael Ellis of C Company received the Medal of Honor for his actions this day.

9 October 1965      1-28 Arrives in Vietnam as part of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> ID

## NOVEMBER

1 November 1945      28<sup>th</sup> Infantry inactivated at the close of WWII at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

8 November 1966      1-28 participates in Operation Attleboro. During the Battle of Ap Cha Do. B Company Specialist Fourth Class Kirk

James awarded Distinguished Service Cross for acting as a squad leader, attacking 2 enemy machine gun crews and directing air strikes. Captain Euripdes Rubio gives his life deploying a smoke grenade marking enemy positions for air strikes, despite being hit by enemy fire three times. He posthumously received the Medal of Honor. 1-28 would receive the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in the Battle of Ap Cha Do.

13 November 1903

Private Ferdinand Keithley kills 22 Moro warriors after his company was ambushed. Became the first enlisted man to have an Army post named in his honor.

14 November 1903

1-28 Engaged in one of the largest battles in the Philippines. Defeated the Moro warriors in a daring bayonet charge.

18 November 1944

1-28 withstands 10 day, 3000 round German artillery bombardment in the Hurtgen-Vossenack area. WWII

## DECEMBER

11 December 1901

28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment deploys for the first time in its history. The destination was Luzon Island during the Philippine Insurrection.